

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-59 EB-11 IGA-02 AGR-20 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 FDRE-00 SS-20 L-03 /147 W

----- 010268

O R 291140Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7427

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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ABIDJAN FOR EASUM, BUCHE AND REDSO

E.O. 11652:SN/A

TAGS: EAID NG

SUBJECT: NIGER GOVERNMENT SEED PEANUT PURCHASES IN US

REF: A. STATE 42345 (NOTAL) B. NIAMEY 878

1. ASST SECY EASUM CONFERRED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
BOUKARY SABO AT NIAMEY AIRPORT MARCH 28 CONCERNING DROUGHT
DEVASTATION NIGER PEANUT CROP AND URGENT EFFORTS GON MEET
CRITICAL PEANUT SEED SHORTAGE REQUIRING QUALITY SEED PEANUTS
AVAILABLE TO PLANTERS BY MAY 15. FONMIN STRESSED IMPORTANCE
USG ASSISTANCE RESOLVING PROBLEMS NIGER'S RECENT CONTRACT
ORDER WITH COMPAGNIE NOGA, GENEVA AGENT, BRING 5000 METRIC
TONS FROM US (REF B). CONFERENCE CONVERGED GON DESPERATION
IN SITUATION WHERE LAST HARVEST DID NOT YIELD SUFFICIENT SEED
FOR NEXT PLANTINGS FORCING URGENT SEARCH FOR SUITABLE SEED
US AND SENEGAL. FOLLOWING NEAR TOTAL FAILURE NIGER'S MAIN
CASH CROP, OBVIOUSLY IMPERATIVE GON RECEIVE TIMELY
SHIPMENTS IN ORDER AVERT TOTAL DISASTER APPROACHING
SEASON. ASST SECY EASUM PROMISED EMBASSY WOULD OBTAIN
REPLY ASAP REGARDING 5000 TON SHIPMENT AND THAT FINANCING
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PROBLEMS WOULD BE TACKLED AT COM CONFERENCE ABIDJAN

MARCH 29-30.

2. THROUGH SONARA, GON PEANUT CONTROL AGENCY, FONMIN FURNISHED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AMPLOFYING AND JUSTIFYING GON MISGIVINGS CONCERNING 5000 TONS CURRNETLY AT TAMPA AWAITING SHIPMENT APRIL 5. EMBASSY GIVEN TELEX RECEIVED BY SONARA QUOTE FROM FRIENDS IN PARIS UNQUOTE THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

A. IN ALL PROBABILITY THESE PEANUTS ORIGINATED FROM COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION SURPLUSES INTENDED FOR CRUSHING.

B. PEANUTS WERE PROBABLY SOLD BY AN UNNAMED AGENT TO GRANADEX, S.A. - IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION DE PRODUITS OLEAGINEUX, 47 RUE DU 31 DECEMBRE, 1211 GENEVA 6, SWITZERLAND (COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: M. LEON GAON), ALSO FOR OIL-TYPE PURPOSES.

C. A KNOWLEDGEABLE PROFESSIONAL HAS VISITED TAMPA, DISCREETLY EXAMINED THE SHIPMENT AND REPORTED THAT THE PEANUTS ARE NOT RPT NOT PEANUT SEED AND NOT RPT NOT EVEN PEANUTS HAVING THE FLO-RUNNER CHARACTERISTICS.

D. THE SAME PERSON SUCCEEDED IN "UNOFFICIALLY" OBTAINING A SAMPLE WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO PIERRE GILLIER, INSTITUTE OF OIL CROP RESEARCH, PARIS. GILLIER FOUND THAT 30-40 PERCENT OF THE PEANUTS HAD THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FLO-RUNNER WHEREAS THE USUAL PROPORTION SHOULD NOT BE LESS THAN 84 PERCENT. (VARIETIES OTHER THAN FLO-RUNNER SHOULD NOT EXCEED 16 PERCENT.) SIXTY TO SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE SAMPLE WERE PEANUTS OF "VARIETIES OF RUNNER OR OTHERS" (SIC) AND THE SAMPLING INCLUDED DAMAGED AND EMPTY SHELLS.

E. GILLIER SAID HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT THESE PEANUTS AS SEED PEANUTS IF HE WERE BUYER SINCE THE RESULT WOULD BE VERY UNCERTAIN. GILLIER RECOMMENDS REFERRAL TO DR. NORDEN, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, 209 MACCARTY HALL, GAINSVILLE TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE SPECIFYING TYPE OF PEANUTS AND ESTABLISHING WHETHER THE TYPE DEMANDED BY THE CONTRACT ARE BEING FURNISHED. END OF TELEX MATERIAL.
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3. THE CONTRACT WITH COMPAGNIE NOGA, 78 RUE DU RHONE, GENEVA (REPRESENTED BY MR. N. GAON) CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS QUOTE FLO-RUNNERS CATEGORIE (SEGREGATION) NO. 1 FARMERS STOCK. ARACHIDE EN CROQUES D' ORIGINE DU SUD-EST DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE. ARTICLE 2 - QUALITE SAINE, LOYALE, MARCHANDISE DE LA RECOLTE 1973. BASE PURE, TOUT POURCENTAGE D'IMPURETE VIENDRA EN DEDUCTION DU POIDS A FACTURER. HUMIDITE MAXIMUM

EIGHT PERCENT. TOUT POURCENTAGE AU-DELA DE EIGHT PERCENT SERA DEDUIT DU POIDS A FACTURER. UNQUOTE. TRANSLATION BY USAID NIAMEY QUOTE FLO-RUNNERS CATEGORY (SEGREGATION) NO. 1 FARMERS STMCK. UNSHELLED PEANUST, ORIGINATING IN SOUTHEAST OF THE UNITED STATES. ARTICLE 2. HEALTHY QUALITY, FROM 1973 HARVEST. BASICALLY PURE, ALL PERCENTAGE OF IMPURITY WILL BE DEDUCTED BY WEIGHT AT TIME OF BILLING. MAXIMUM HUMIDITY EIGHT PCNT. PERCENTAGE OVER AND ABOVE EIGHT PCNT WILL BE DEDUCTED BY WEIGHT AT TIME OF BILLING UNQUOTE. THE CONTRACT REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

- A. A CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN "PHYTOSANITAIRE" FROM COMPETENT US AUTHORITIES, AND
 - B. CERTIFICATE OF TYPE AND QUALITY WITH THE RECORD OF ANALYSIS FURNISHED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SPECIFYING THE PERCENTAGE OF IMPURITIES AND HUMIDITY. CONTRACT ALSO CALLS FOR DESPATCH OF PEANUTS NOT LATER THAN APRIL 5 DESTINATION LAGOS/APAPA WITH COST OF UNLOADING PAID BY VENDOR.
4. ADDITIONALLY, GON NEEDS ASSURANCE THAT PEANUT SEED FURNISHED WILL BE 110/120 DAY CYCLE TYPE.
5. CONFIDENTIALLY, GON OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE HAVE BEEN FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE COMPAGNIE NOGA (REPRESENTATIVE: NESSIM GAON), WITH WHOM THEY HAVE CONTRACT, HAS BAD BUSINESS REPUTATION WHICH IS LIKELY KNOWN IN THE US AND THAT GRANADEX, (REPRESENTATIVE: LEON GAON, BROTHER OF MESSIM), IS LIKELY BEING USED FOR THIS OPERATION TO CONSUMMATE PROFITABLE DEAL WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE INVESTIGATED TOO CAREFULLY.
6. SONARA BELIEVES GILLIER OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE WILL TRAVEL TO FLORIDE MEET DR. NORDEN ABOUT MARCH 29-30 IN ATTEMPT RESOLVE PROBLEM BEFORE LOADING.

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7. SHOULD PEANUTS BE LOADED AND SHIPPED AND PROVED TO BE OF THE QUALITY SUSPECTED, SHIPMENT WOULD SURELY BE REFUSED BY GON, PROBABLY PROVOKING ENDLESS LEGAL BATTLE. GON REPORTS IT HAS ALREADY MADE ONE PAYMENT.
8. GIVEN \$3,800,000 VALUE OF 5000 TON CONTRACT, CRITICAL NEED GON RECEIVE QUALITY SEED BY MAY 15 AND OBVIOUS DESIRE USG PROTECT REPUTATION US PEANUT INDUSTRY, APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S URGENT INTERVENTION AND ASSISTANCE AS APPROPRIATE.
9. EMBASSY ATTEMPTED CONVEY OUTLINE OF FOREGOING IN TWO UNSUCCESSFUL NIAMEY-WASHINGTON TELEPHONE CALLS, MULL TO WYGANT, AF/W MARCH 28.
- MULL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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